

States who are victims of terrorism and mass violence that occur outside the borders of the United States.

In addition, we allowed greater flexibility to our State and local victims' assistance programs and some greater certainty so that they can know that our commitment to victims programming will not wax and wane with events. Accordingly, we enacted an important provision to increase the base amounts for States' victims assistance grants to \$500,000 and allowed victims assistance grants to be made for a 3-year cycle of programming, rather than the year of award plus one, which was the limit contained in previous law. We were able to raise the assessments on those convicted of federal crimes in order to fund the needs of crime victims.

We worked to improve the church burning legislation and to increase the stability to victim assistance and victim compensation program funds.

Aileen was helpful in consulting with me and other Senators on the Judiciary Committee on the victims provisions of S. 15, a youth crime bill, so that the rights of victims of juvenile crime to appear, to be heard and to be informed would be protected. Those provisions have now been incorporated in the juvenile crime bill ordered reported by the Judiciary Committee.

In addition, Senator KENNEDY and I incorporated a number of her suggestions in S. 1081, the "Crime Victims Assistance Act." That bill would reform the Federal Rules and Federal law to establish additional rights and protections for victims of federal crime. In particular, the legislation would provide crime victims with an enhanced right to be heard on the issue of pre-trial detention, on plea bargains, at sentencing, on probation revocation, and to be notified of a defendant's escape or release from prison. The legislation goes further than other victims rights proposals that are currently before Congress by including enhanced penalties for witness intimidation, an increase in Federal victim assistance personnel, enhanced training for State and local law enforcement and officers of the Court, development of state of the art systems for notifying victims of important dates and developments in their cases, and the establishment of ombudsman programs for crime victims.

I know that crime victim advocates in Vermont join me in thanking Aileen for her service. I was delighted that Aileen could come to Vermont to keynote the restorative justice conference in Vermont last June. Our Vermont advocates are well aware of the extraordinary efforts at OVC and have worked with OVC to create greater opportunities for rural programs. With support from OVC, Vermont has been able to implement its victims programs for outreach to underserved populations and coordinate among providers and allied professionals.

I was especially proud when the recent site visit to Vermont resulted in

the Justice Department concluding that "Vermont's programs are setting the standard for outreach to underserved populations and service coordination among providers and allied professionals."

Aileen Adams has dedicated her service to the needs of crime victims. She has made a difference. She has improved federal programs for victims of domestic violence, victims of terrorism, and crime victim assistance generally. She has helped create a strong funding source for crime victim compensation and assistance programs. She has worked to expand crime victims rights. Most importantly, she has made a difference in the lives of crime victims all across the country.

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Mr. Williams, one of his secretaries.

EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

As in executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate messages from the President of the United States submitting sundry nominations which were referred to the appropriate committees.

(The nominations received today are printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

MESSAGES FROM THE HOUSE

At 4:06 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mr. Hays, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bill, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 3164. An act to describe the hydrographic services functions of the Administrator of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, and for other purposes.

The message also announced that pursuant to the provisions of section 801(b) of Public Law 100-696, and the order of the House of Wednesday, April 1, 1998, the Chair announces the Speaker's appointment of the following Member of the House to the United States Capitol Preservation Commission: Mr. DAVIS of Virginia.

The message further announced that pursuant to the provisions of section 801(b)(6) and (8) of Public Law 100-696, the Minority Leader appoints the following Member of the House to the United States Capitol Preservation Commission: Mr. SERRANO of New York.

The message also announced that pursuant to section 801 of Public Law 100-696 (40 U.S.C. 188a), the Chairman of the Committee on House Oversight appoints the Honorable JOHN L. MICA of Florida to serve on the United States Capitol Preservation Commission in the position reserved from the Chairman of the Joint Committee on the Library.

The message further announced that pursuant to the provisions of section 704(b)(1) of Public Law 105-78, the Minority Leader appoints the following individual to the National Health Museum Commission: Dr. H. Richard Nesson of Brookline, Massachusetts.

At 5:38 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Ms. Goetz, one of its reading clerks, announced that the Speaker appoints the following Members as additional conferees in the conference on the disagreeing votes of the two Houses on the amendment of the Senate to the bill (H.R. 2400) to authorize funds for Federal-aid highways, highway safety programs, and transit programs, and for other purposes; and appoints as additional conferees from the Committee on Commerce, for consideration of provisions in the House bill and Senate amendment relating to the Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Improvement Program; and sections 124, 125, 303, and 502 of the House bill; and sections 1407, 1601, 1602, 2103, 3106, 3301-3302, 4101-4104, and 5004 of the Senate amendment and modifications committed to conference: Mr. BLILEY, Mr. BILIRAKIS, and Mr. DINGELL: *Provided*, that Mr. TAUZIN is appointed in lieu of Mr. BILIRAKIS for consideration of sections 1407, 2103, and 3106 of the Senate amendment.

MESSAGES FROM THE HOUSE RECEIVED DURING ADJOURNMENT

Under the authority of the order of the Senate of January 7, 1997, the Secretary of the Senate, on April 6, 1998, during the adjournment of the Senate, received a message from the House of Representatives announcing that House disagrees to the amendment of the Senate to the bill (H.R. 2400) to authorize funds for Federal-aid highways, highway safety programs, and transit programs, and for other purposes, and agrees to the conference asked by the Senate on the disagreeing votes of the two Houses thereon; and appoints the following Members as the managers of the conference on the part of the House:

For consideration of the House bill (except title XI) and the Senate amendment (except title VI), and modifications committed to conference: Mr. SHUSTER, Mr. YOUNG of Alaska, Mr. PETRI, Mr. BOEHLERT, Mr. KIM, Mr. HORN, Mrs. FOWLER, Mr. BAKER, Mr. NEY, Mr. METCALF, Mr. OBERSTAR, Mr. RAHALL, Mr. BORSKI, Mr. LIPINSKI, Mr. WISE, Mr. CLYBURN, Mr. FILNER, and Mr. MCGOVERN.

MEASURES REFERRED

The following bill was read the first and second times by unanimous consent and referred as indicated:

H.R. 3164. An act to describe the hydrographic services functions of the Administrator of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.